IN THE CLAIMS:

At line 1, delete "Patent Claims", and substitute --I Claim:--.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Amended). Method for producing a rim hole through a [pile] stack of at least two plate-shaped work[ ]pieces of the type using [in which by means of] a rim hole punch, essentially driven vertically through the pile, by which material of the one plate-shaped work[ ]piece facing the rim hole punch is pushed through an opening of the other plate-shaped work[ ]piece whereby the inside contours of the opening essentially correspond to the outer contours of the rim hole, [characterised in that] comprising the steps of forming, in a single feed movement of the rim hole punch (7), both the rim hole (9) as well as the opening (21) in the other, rear plate-shaped work[ ]piece (2) seen from the direction of feed, [are formed] by having the plate-shaped work[ ]piece (2) pointing away from the rim hole punch supported by a matrix (8), and breaking out, [such that] when the rim hole punch is driven through the [pile] stack (1, 2), a piece of material (10) [is broken out] of the rear plate-shaped work[ ]piece (2) [and whose] the outer contours of which piece of material essentially correspond to the outer contours of the rim hole.

2 (Amended). Method for producing a rim hole according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein at the end of the feed movement of the rim hole punch (7), the rim hole (9)

protrudes over the surface facing matrix (8) of the rear plate-shaped work[ ]piece (2).

3 (Amended). Method for producing a [riveted joint] rim hole according to Claim 2, and the step of flanging [characterised in that] the rim hole (7) [is preferably flanged by] means of a flange punch (12) fed from a side of the workpieces opposite the rim hole punch, whereby, after flanging, the outer surface (14) of the rim hole rests, at least in some sections, on the outer surface (15) of the rear workpiece.

4 (Amended). Method for producing a rim hole according to [one of the above cited claims, characterised in that prior to formation of the rim hole] Claim 1, and the step of creating a penetration opening (3, 3′), prior to formation of the rim hole, [is created] through the pile (1, 2) and [whose] where the cross-section surface for such penetration opening corresponds at most to the cross-section surface of the opening (50, 51) of the rim hole.

5 (Amended). Method for producing a rim hole according to [one of the above cited claims, characterised in that] Claim 4, and wherein the penetration opening (3, 3′) is created through the pile (1, 2) with an essentially constant cross-section.

6 (Amended). Method for producing a rim hole according to [one of the above cited claims, characterised in that] Claim 4, and wherein the penetration opening (3, 3′) is created with the feed movement of the rim hole punch by means of the rim hole